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Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 USIA-15 INR-10 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 AID-20 PRS-01 DODE-00 SP-03 L-03 /092 W
---------- 077883
R 081245Z MAY 74
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2509
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0321

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ
SUBJECT: LATEST TALKS WITH DR. JOANA SIMIAO,
GUMO VICE PRESIDENT

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 318
(B) STATE 89683 (NOTAL)

1. DR. JOANA SIMIAO, GUMO VICE PRESIDENT, CALLED AT CONGEN MAY 7. FLUSHED WITH ENTHUSIASM, SHE EXPRESSED HERSELF AS SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR BY GUMO. SHE WAS ELATED WITH WHAT SHE CONSIDERED SUCCESS OF XIPAMANINE MEETING MAY 3. UNFAVORABLE NEWSPAPER STORIES SHE DISCOUNTED AS HAVING BEEN WRITTEN EITHER BY REPORTERS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND AFRICAN AUDIENCES, OR BY THOSE WITH POLITICAL AXE TO GRIND, SUCH AS PENA (?) OF EXPRESSO, WHOM SHE CHARACTERIZED AS "MAOIST".

2. HER PROBLEM NOW IS FINDING ENOUGH TIME TO CARRY OUT HER MANIFOLD POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, AND STILL CONTINUE HER REGULAR TEACHING AND NEWSPAPER REPORTING JOBS. SHE HOPES WHEN HER TASK OF ORGANIZING AND SETTING UP GUMO CENTERS IN ALL MAIN URBAN AREAS IS COMPLETED SHE WILL BE ABLE TO RELAX, AND PERHAPS VISIT THE UNITED STATES. ASKED WHEN SHE MIGHT BE READY FOR SUCH VISIT, SHE INDICATED MID-JUNE AS POSSIBLE TARGET DATE.
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EM DR. SIMIAO SAID GUMO HAD APPOINTED AS SECURITY CHIEF, ONE HENRIQUES (FNU), A MULATTO FROM INHAMBANE, WHO HAS LIVED IN MALAWI AND KENYA, AND WHO HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE SKILL AS POLITICAL ORGANIZER AND PUBLIC SPEAKER. SHE WONDERED IF USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME SPECIAL TRAINING FOR HIM IN SECURITY TECHNIQUES. SHE SAID SECURITY CHIEF WAS NECESSARY FOR PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE FUTURE VIOLENCE SHE EXPECTED FROM FRELIMO SUPPORTERS PERHAPS, OR FROM RADICAL STUDENTS. I WAS NON-COMMITTAL BUT SAID I WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILUTIES.

4. DR. SIMIAO CLAIMED THAT MOST OF RELEASED PRISONERS FROM MACHAVA WOULD JOIN GUMO, INCLUDING FNU MATISSE, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE MET ME DURING VISIT TO MACHAVA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. SHE SAID LIBERAL PARTY OF PORTUGAL HAD MADE OVERTURES SEEKING CONTACT WITH GUMO.

5. SEEKING TO BROADEN ITS APPEAL, GUMO HAS "RADICALIZED" ITS PROGRAM TO CALL FOR OUTRIGHT INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE, EXACT FORM TO BE DETERMINED BY ELECTIONS, TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRELIMO IF LATTER ACCEPTS CEASE FIRE, AND TO WORK IN COOPERATION OR COALITION WITH LATTER IN PEACEFUL SEARCH FOR INDEPENDENCE. MAIN IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO INCREASE POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE.

6. DR. SIMIAO INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH PRESENT GUMO PRESIDENT MAXIMO DIAS WAS USEFUL AS SPEAKER AND ORGANIZER, HE LACKED SUFFICIENT APPEAL TO BE IDEAL LEADER FOR GUMO. SHE WAS LOOKING FOR BLACK AFRICAN WITH SUFFICIENT CHARISMA TO FIT BILL. I ASKED WHETHER DOMINGOS AROUCA WOULD BE SUITABLE CANDIDATE. SHE REPLIED HE WOULD NOT, AS HE IS IN REALITY A SUPPORTER OF FRELIMO AND TRYING TO FURTHER THE FRELIMO CAUSE WITHIN MOZAMBIQUE. SHE WAS HOWEVER, NOT CERTAIN HIS SERVICES WOULD BE ENTIRELY WELCOME TO FRELIMO LEADERSHIP IN DAR ES SALAAM.

7. SHE INDICATED THAT COL. SEBASTIAO, THE JUNTA'S "DELEGATE" IN THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT, HAD ALREADY SUMMONED JORGE ABREU TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT GUMO, AND TO SIZE HIM UP.

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IM COMMENT: DR. SIMIAO NOW HAS UNQUESTIONED STATUS AS MOZAMBIQUE'S MOST POLITICALLY PROMINENT WOMAN, AND PERHAPS PERSON AS WELL. SHE WILL HAVE TO MAKE HER OWN DECISION AS TO WHETHER VISIT TO US AT THIS TIME WILL HELP OR HINDER HER AMBITIONS. FROM WHAT SHE HAS THUS FAR SAID, I AM QUITE CONFIDENT SHE WILL CONCLUDE THAT BENEFITS SHE AND GUMO WILL DERIVE FROM THE EXPERIENCE AND EXPOSURE TO PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES AFFORDED BY SUCH VISIT WILL OUTWEIGHT POSSIBLE

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DISADVANTAGE OF BEING CONSIDERED AMERICAN STOOGE. WE THUS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HER CANDIDACY FOR IV GRANT, (STATE 89683) AND WILL FINALIZE WHEN AND IF SHE MAKES UP HER MIND. PROVIDING TRAINING FOR GUMO SECURITY CHIEF IS ANOTHER MATTER, HOWEVER, AND WE RECOMMEND USG NOT RPT NOT GET INVOLVED IN SUCH EXERCISE AT THIS MOMENT.
VAN OSS

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